

# **City of Rockville Environment Commission**

## **Sustainable Development and Energy Committee (SDEC)**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, February 21, 2012**

**Diamondback Terrapin Room, City Hall**

**7:00 pm**

#### **1. Welcome / Agenda Review/Minutes Adoption**

- In attendance: Clark Reed, John Becker, Lea Rosenbohm, Devinie Rukshani Lye, Herb Winkler, Ashley Lambdin (JBG) and staff liaison Erica Shingara.
- The meeting convened at 7:05 by Chair Reed and the January meeting minutes were approved.

#### **2. Environment Commission Report**

- Council Member Mark Pierzchala attended that January meeting as the new Council liaison to the Commission.
- The Commission has \$1,500 in their budget to spend by June 30<sup>th</sup>. Committees were asked to identify potential needs prior to the next meeting. The SDEC suggested an energy display for the booth at Hometown Holidays and other public events. The Outreach Committee should be consulted to see what energy materials are currently available and identify options.
- John Becker contacted Clean Currents and Ecobeco about potential nominations for Environmental Excellence Awards.
- Each Committee was requested to develop work plans for action items. The work plans should identify what we are doing now, what we want to do, and how do we get there. Topics related to the SDEC include Sustainable Maryland Certified, High Performance tax credit implementation, green building code updates, and the environment element of the master plan. The SDEC is also interested in developing a work plan for the Kilowatt Crackdown, modeled after the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) program to recognize buildings for achieving the most energy savings. The EPA should be releasing a guidance document for local communities within the next few weeks. Clark Reed will forward the information and the SDEC will work on an action plan in March and April, with potential presentation to the Commission in May.

#### **3. Environmental Management Division Report**

- Two new staff members joined the Environmental Management Division to fill the vacant positions in the stormwater program: Arthur Ray and Shannon Philbin.
- A revised list of the City's March and April environmental activities was distributed. Events include stream cleanups, green business certification training, programs with VisArts, lectures, Spring Celebration and a planting project at the Twinbrook Community Center.

#### **4. High Performance Building Tax Credit**

- The Mayor and Council introduced the tax credit on January 23. The public comment period is open and a public hearing will be held on March 5, 2012.
- Clark Reed will provide testimony on behalf of the Environment Commission at the public hearing. The Commission has already provided similar testimony at last year's budget public hearings (March 2010).
- Ashley Lambkin from JBG manages properties near the Twinbrook Metro. She described the business perspective and economic benefits of green, energy-efficient buildings. Her company has placed a priority on sustainability. LEED and ENERGY STAR are now factored into GSA bids and are also being considered by private companies for leasing agreements. The tax credit incentive could help buildings remain competitive and encourage leasing. In the long term, increasing green energy efficient commercial building could increase property assessments and City tax revenue.

#### **5. Sustainable Maryland Certified (SMC)**

- The Sustainability Survey received over 225 responses. SDEC related activities made the list of "top ten" actions receiving the most high priority rankings: green building ranked #3, energy efficiency ranked #6, and green energy ranked #8. In addition, over 50% of respondents indicated that they were very concerned about climate and energy issues. However, while concerned, most respondents were not currently taking actions to decrease energy consumption and climate impacts. Over 22% wanted more information on how to purchase green electricity, calculate their carbon footprint, use onsite renewable energy and get a professional energy audit. The SDEC could help provide education and outreach on these items. Given that lectures generally only reach a small audience, EMD has requested funds to create short educational videos on home energy audits/efficiency and green power. These would be available on Channel 11 and the City's website. If funding is approved, the SDEC could contribute to the videos.
- Approximately 18 actions, totaling 215-230 points, were collected for the 2012 application to become a certified Sustainable Maryland municipality. 150 points are required to achieve certification. The Green Team will be reviewing the final materials in March and then the City will submit the application for certification. The Green Team will then focus on year 2 actions.

#### **6. Member News / Announcements / Upcoming Events**

- John Becker indicated that the Americana is evaluating energy providers and considering green energy for a portion of their 4.5 million kWh demand. This would contribute to the Green Power Community Challenge. The Rockville Chamber of Commerce is opening another opportunity for members to participate in cooperative energy procurement.

#### **7. Wrap-up and Adjourn**

The next SDEC meeting is tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, March 20, 2012** at Rockville City Hall. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:15 pm.